

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 151453Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3107
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 15400

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET SU
SUBJ: EPMG COMMENTS ON NIMEIRI VISIT TO YEMEN AND GULF

REF: KHARTOUM 827

1. MARCH 15 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED STATEMENT BY SPOKES-
MAN OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON
SCHEDULED NIMEIRI VISIT TO OMAN AND SOUTH YEMEN TO DIS-
CUSS "RED SEA SECURITY." SPOKESMAN NOTED QUESTION OF
PEACE IN RED SEA REGION COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED ONLY BY
CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES IN VIEW OF ETHIOPIA'S 1,000 KM.
OF RED SEA COAST. HE STATED DISCUSSIONS OFFYHOOT OF MILI-
TARY PACT AND POLITICAL UNIFICATION PROGRAM RECENTLY SIGNED
BETWEEN SUDAN, EGYPT AND SYRIA UNDER PATRONAGE OF INTER-
NATIONAL IMPERIALISM WORKING THROUGH SAUDI ARABIAN MONARCHY.

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2. SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT "ARROGANT DECLARATIONS OF
HEGEMONISTIC NATURE REGARDING HORN OF AFRICA AND RED
SEA HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PROCLAIMED IN CERTAIN REACTION-
ARY ARB QUARTERS WHICH ARE AIRLIFTING ARMS AND MER-
CENARIES TO SECESSIONIST MOVEMENTS AND COUNTER-REVO-
LUTIONARIES OPERATING AGAINST TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA AND ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLU-

TION.

3. SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT REACTIONARY ARAB SUPPORT FOR SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN ERITREAN ADMINISTRATIVE REGION NOT BASED ON SECTARIANISM BUT IS MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. OBSESSED BY ROMANTIC VISION OF PAN-ARABISM AND RENAISSANCE OF ARAB GRANDEUR, REACTIONARY ARAB COUNTRIES WANT TO CONVERT RED SEA INTO ARAB LAKE. ONLY OBSTACLE TO THIS DREAM, ACCORDING TO ARABS THEMSELVES, IS EXISTENCE OF ETHIOPIA.

4. SPOKESMAN NOTED IT INSULT TO HONOR AND DIGNITY OF WHOLE OF AFRICA THAT SOME REACTIONARY ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD IGNORE EXISTENCE OF SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE ALONG THE RED SEA COAST. INSULT WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY BY AFRICAN CONTINENT NOR WILL ETHIOPIA SUBMIT TO BLACKMAIL AND THREATS. ETHIOPIA'S RIGHTS ALONG THE RED SEA COAST WILL BE PROTECTED BY VALIANT SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ETHIOPIA.

5. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS FIRST TIME EPMG HAS OFFICIALLY ACCUSED ARWB MODERATES OF AIRLIFTING ARMS TO ERITREAN REBELS AND EDU. STATEMENT REFLECTS BOTH TRADITIONAL AND MORE RECENT EPMG FEARS OF "ARAB ENCIRCLEMENT."
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